

met. It often happens that there is a change of station before the first fall of a bill is paid. Then there are other equipments varying with the arm of the service to which the young patriot may be assigned—a horse, bridle and saddle, for instance; two rooms and a kitchen to be furnished, and the newly acquired bride must be clothed and fed."

Early in the civil war there was a lieutenant who boasted that since his marriage he had saved half his pay, upon which "old Kite Whiting" asked "why he did not marry two wives and save it all." It was the grim joke of a septic.

It has been said in the case of the civilian marriage that two movements are as bad as a fire. Every Benedict who has the migrating habit knows what that means. But one moving in army life—that is from station to station—is a good deal more destructive. Friendly "Centurion" advises "prudence to young women thinking of marrying second lieutenants." Will they be impressed by this:

"I have served from Yorktown to Manila, from the mouth of the Rio Grande to the Klondike, in seven different regiments and twenty different stations, and I have received tearful applications from young wives not to send their husbands as Indian scouts. I have received many letters from creditors complaining that officers had not paid their debts—I knew they could not pay."

It was not so long ago that an Adjutant-General of the army advised against the marriage of young officers in his annual report, and what a storm burst upon that devoted man's head! He deserved the medal of honor for his moral heroism because he was eternally right and said the unpopular thing. Plattsburg will no doubt encourage matrimony, but "Centurion" should have a hearing.

The Same Fourth Seems to Have Been Achieved.

The number of lives saved and injuries prevented by the "safe and sane fourth," recently computed by the Journal of the American Medical Association, offers food for reflection. When JOHN ADAMS predicted that Independence Day would be celebrated by future generations with bonfires and similar sensational displays he little dreamed of the fatalities that such patriotic demonstrations had in store for the people. The increased safety of firearms to the man behind the gun does not affect the over-zealous celebrant of the glorious fourth, because he too often puts himself in jeopardy by reversing the positions, or uses small arms or toy pistols to vent his joy, with the result that year by year blood poisoning have exacted a sad toll. Accidents have opened the eyes of the municipal authorities in recent years, and it is this triumph of sanity that we desire to emphasize. With unceasing vigilance the Journal has gathered every reliable statistic that merit attention as a lesson for continuing its precepts and example:

TETANUS CASES BY STATES.	States having cases.	Total.
1907.	30	417
1908.	21	165
1909.	23	194
1910.	25	189
1911.	23	73
1912.	26	74
1913.	25	150
1914.	18	72
1915.	10	18
1916.	6	7
1917.	3	4
1918.	3	4
1919.	1	1
Grand total.	118	

Illinois appears to have been the leading tetanus state, followed closely by Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York. Last fourth was the first in over a decade in which not a single case of lockjaw was reported. This favorable record may be attributed in part also to the timely application of antitoxin in suspected cases; chiefly in black cartridge wounds, which had hitherto furnished the largest number of lockjaw cases. The only case of lockjaw in 1915 was the result of a black cartridge wound. Lockjaw was caused in 89 cases by black cartridges; in 94 cases by giant crackers; in 76 by powder and other explosives; in 33 by firearms, and in 27 by toy cannons. Other fatalities, 729 in number, were due to burns; 208 to firearms; 119 to explosions; 50 to giant crackers; 52 to toy cannons and 81 to various forms of fireworks. Altogether during the thirteen years there were 44,801 persons injured and 1,692 killed through stupid methods of celebrating the national holiday. That much is yet to be accomplished is evident from the following data:

TOTAL DEATHS AND ACCIDENTS DURING FOURTEEN YEARS.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	Total.
Deaths.	4,449	4,162	5,178	5,456	4,413	5,623	5,307	4,910	4,162	4,162	4,162	4,162	4,162	4,162	4,162	4,162	4,162	44,801

In absolute prohibition of the use of explosives and firearms lies the only safety. The casualties have been diminished greatly by the sensible action of municipalities like New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. To the smaller towns and rural districts the above figures may point a lesson of incalculable value. Detroit, for instance, had two killed and forty-six injured in 1907, and no killed and only six injured in 1915, but its casualties rose to two killed and fourteen injured in 1916. Worcester, Mass., after six years freedom from fatalities recorded two killed and thirteen injured, almost equal to its bad record in 1908. Kansas City, Mo., on the

other hand, offers the most satisfactory record. Having had one killed and ten injured in 1907, that town has had no casualties at all in the last five years. Although the total cases of lockjaw have been reduced in fourteen years from 425 to none, and the totals of all casualties from 5,400 to 850, there is still cause for bearing in mind that "eternal vigilance is the price of safety."

Stylen in Verse.

Almost everybody is interested in the New Poetry. Almost everybody takes sides, and exalts it or condemns it. Even in a Presidential year, and in the heat of a particularly momentous campaign, most people find time to discuss Free Verse. But the discussion is somewhat hazy. Both pros and anti are apt to be too vague, or too magisterial, or too something else, for the satisfaction of the few neutrals. At last a criticism in a magazine of the new regime gives a clue, with examples, to the requirements of the reformed rules of the game. Seekers after light may begin to see light. From "Flashlight" by MAX ALDIS this "thumb nail drawing" is reproduced:

"The winter dusk creeps up the Avenue
With biting cold.
Behind bright window panes
In gauzy garments
Waxen ladies smile
As shirt sleeves men
Hustle them off their pedestals for the night."

"Along the Avenue
A girl comes hurrying,
Holding her shawl.
She stops to look in at the window.
'Oh God!' she says, 'look at the chiffon stuff!'
A whimpering dog
Falters up to cringe against her skirt."

And then this lyric bit, called "Seeking":
"Swift like the lark
Out of the dark
One cometh, singing:
'Silent in flight
Out of the night
Answer is winging.'

"Forth to the dawn
Leaps like a fawn
A cry of high greeting.
'Into the sun
Two that have run
Seeking are meeting."

Now let the reader, after comparing the two pieces, analytically or sentimentally, as his habit and nature may be, and deciding for himself which is the better poetry, submit to correction or enjoy indorsement by the competent critic: The "flashlight" is "slight," but "crisp and sure." The lyric has lost the crispness, and "instead of the sure, swift, simple words we have the old, weak poetic jargon of 'one cometh, singing,' we have worn-out similes such as 'swift like the lark,' or 'leaps like a fawn.'" The verse is "woolly." The poet, who can be as "stark as Mr. MANTON," prefers to "stick to be sentimental in the older, not necessarily Victorian, fashion."

That the two bits of verse differ in form, spirit and manner it needs no expert in the principles of poetic art or the rules of craftsmanship to detect. And the critic has left not the narrowest crack of ambiguity for the insertion of a doubt as to which piece is dressed in the authentic style of the day. We shall give comfort to neither camp by declaring for one against the other. But to each we extend assurance that its cause is worthy—short of the mark at which internecine strife may be justified.

We Wonder.

The proposed treaty relation with Colombia included a donation of \$25,000,000 for the purpose of conciliating unfriendly memories in that republic and incidentally discrediting the acts of a previous Administration, namely, Colonel Roosevelt's.

The treaty with Denmark includes an eleemosynary appropriation of \$25,000,000 for real estate previously valued at about \$5,000,000; and no person in the confidence of the Administration has yet explained why this extra \$20,000,000 should be paid for the little islands.

We wonder what figure generosity is now whispering at New London into the ears of unlimited receptivity as the price of peace and good will among Mexicans.

Is it a thumping sum by way of rental for a long lease of Lower California, including Magdalena Bay? If CARRANZA is to be placated, and VILLA is to be atoned for, and we are to vindicate by means of cash payments the right of our citizens to abide on Mexican soil unmolested and to pursue their legitimate business there unimpeded, and the bankers will not do the job, there is always the Treasury of the United States to fall back on, and the taxing power to replenish it.

of ECHegaray to cross the frontiers of his own country were translated into Swedish and Italian. The stages of those two countries are hospitable and new authors are warmly welcomed. It was in Germany, however, that the fame of ECHegaray as a world author was made. "El Gran Galeoto" was in that country played so much as to attract the attention of the rest of the world. It was as far back as 1881 that this drama was written. Both "Maritana" and "The Son of Don Juan" date from 1892.

The plays of ECHegaray were not the work of a man of the theatre. Technically they could have been praised by discerning critics only as the productions of a man of letters. He shook many dramas out of his sleeve, and they were often the expression of his political or psychological views. Few of them survive in the Spanish theatre and not more than one ever gained a permanent place on the stage of any foreign country.

The Administration is not yet quite certain whether Brother BAYAN bears an olive branch or a stiletto.

How can there be a "principle" involved in the eight hour day? What are only eight hours to one man may be an eternity to another. Why shouldn't a six hour labor day constitute a "principle"?

Health Commissioner BARRETT says that this city breeds its own mosquitoes and is not dependent for them upon New Jersey. Local pride is satisfied.

It must be a matter of surprise to many Mexicans to learn from "CARANZA" that their country actually possesses a Constitution.

We may imagine the feelings of German infantry in shell battered trenches when in the uncertain light of dawn they are standing upon them an array of unearthly monsters cast in steel, splitting fire and crawling laboriously but ceaselessly over trenches, barbed wire and shell craters.—London Times.

No wonder Tommy Atkins calls his armored motor cars the "Willies." Are they not fragments of the imagination?

It is evident that the English infantry are not too proud to kick goals when they get the ball.

The speech of ex-Premier MORALES declaring that Spain should enter the war and intimating that it should be on the side of the Allies has been coldly received by Liberals and Conservatives.—London Dispatch.

The Entente Allies can hardly desire the cooperation of Spain in the war. Although her army was lately reorganized, it is one of the most backward in Europe, judged by modern requirements. France and England would be embarrassed to find a place for the Spaniards on their front.

Moreover, England would have to advance them money for their campaign, and the war bill is already stupendous. It would be a pity if Spain were drawn into the war. No country in Europe could prosper more than Spain's remoteness from the devastation of the conflict has been an economic opportunity of which she has made good use.

A Chicago music and art critic who is a fan for divorce makes the prediction that "fifty years hence the men of this country and the world will have to arise and band themselves together to maintain their own rights." We trust that they will attack no female prime minister, blow up no railway stations, and respect monuments and art collections.

Why doesn't Wisconsin drop "Fighting Bob"? He's no longer an experiment.

THE LADY'S CHAIR.

Partial Programme of the September Eve's Sideral Show.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Some of the readers of this paper may be interested in knowing a little more about the constellation of Cassiopeia. Cassiopeia is an astronomical name for the "Lady's Chair," a group of five stars arranged in the Milky Way, at this present time around 9 o'clock P. M. north-eastward from the zenith. Indeed, it is a familiar sight to most eyes, probably the Great Dipper being a more familiar firmamental object.

None of its stars is of first magnitude, and these stars, respectively from the zenith side, are named Beta, Alpha, Gamma, Delta and Epsilon. Of these five stars Alpha or Ruchbah is the brightest, but Beta or Chaph is about as bright, as well as Gamma; but all the stars of this peculiar sky figure, reminding us of a "W" or an "M," appear of much the same brightness.

Firmamentally, this sky group is bordered by the constellations of Perseus, Cepheus, Pegasus and Andromeda. There are, of course, other stars in Cassiopeia besides those forming the "Lady's Chair," but these five stars stand out preeminently.

CHARLES NEVENS HOLMES.

NEWTON, MASS., SEPTEMBER 16.

Exploring the Intellectuals of an Ex-tempered Contemporary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Interested by your editorial article "Explained at Last" in to-day's SUN, I invested a cent in the purchase of a copy of the World and looked over the political articles appearing in to-day's number of that publication. I must say that I am astounded to find that there are people in this city who wish to read such stuff. E. R. New York, September 15.

THE OPEN ROAD.

What a Philosopher Saw on a Tramp to West Point.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Perhaps this SUN's readers may be interested in the random observations of a peripatetic. It is just possible that to most of those who may be beguiled into reading this the ground over which I walked is as familiar as the lights of Broadway. But I am sure none of them has seen it in my way.

"Going to walk all the way to West Point?" The stout widow who keeps the hotel at Haverstraw looked at me in frank astonishment when she asked the question. Remembering the man who was eating his pie from his hand and his retort to the question about the use of a fork, I reminded the lady, as delicately as possible, that legs were made before gasoline engines.

"Why don't you get some automobile to give you a lift?" she asked compassionately. Then she turned to a friendly Yankee who had just come into the hotel office from a car that was sputtering outside.

It was useless to attempt to make her see the case from my point of view. Then I turned to the money in my pocket, even in gentled ones. So she left the key to the single room that I was to occupy on the counter for me to take or leave, and addressed herself to the friendly Yankee.

When a man walks on a country road he is not a philosopher, and then by himself, an exclusive is not an aristocrat. From Hastings to Nyack, which may be reached by ferry from Tarrytown, I had not met a soul of my particular description. A roving band of musicians had taken toll of the automobilists, and the road was empty.

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CHARLES A. DANA AND CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE.

Belle of an Ancient Attempt to Regenerate the Democratic Party.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In going over a collection of original autograph letters and manuscripts purchased the other day I found an interesting autograph letter of Charles A. Dana, Editor of THE SUN, I am enclosing a transcript of the letter, thinking it might be of interest to your readers.

P. F. MADISON.

New York, September 15.

DANA CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE: I have stayed my reply to your favor of the last, in the hope of finding time to answer it with